

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 18, 26, and 27. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 13-17, 20, 24, and 25 have been canceled, and claims 28 and 29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 6, 8, 10-12, 18, 19, 21-23, and 26-29 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 9, 14-16, 20, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edsall, et al. (US 6,741,592 B1) in view of The Cisco 7600 Optical Services Router Software Command Reference ("the 7600 Command Reference"). The Applicant has amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to recite a method in which each host has a dedicated VLAN for uplink traffic, and a single asymmetric VLAN is used for all downlink traffic. Basis for this amendment is found in the specification on page 27, lines 11-25; page 31, lines 21-28; and FIGS. 8-9.

In addition, claim 26 has been amended to clarify that the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy. The ARP proxy functionality is modified from that defined in RFC 925 and the 7600 Command Reference in that the access router responds to ARP requests from the hosts by returning the MAC address of the access router instead of the MAC address of the destination host. Basis for this amendment is found in the specification on page 19, line 17 through page 20, line 7.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the combination does not disclose or suggest a method in which each host has a dedicated

VLAN for uplink traffic, a single asymmetric VLAN is used for all downlink traffic, and the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy as recited in amended claim 26. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and the allowance of amended claim 26 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 9 depend from amended claim 26 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 26. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2-4 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 27 is a system claim corresponding to method claim 26. Claim 27 has been amended in a similar manner to claim 26. Therefore, the allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 14-16 and 20 depend from amended claim 27 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 27. Therefore, the allowance of claims 14-16 and 20 is respectfully requested.

On Page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference as applied to claims 26 and 27 and further in view of Lou, et al. (US 2007/0201494 A1). Claims 5 and 17 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new claims 28 and 29. New claims 28 and 29 recite that each host has a dedicated VLAN utilized for both uplink traffic and unicast downlink traffic. Basis for this subject matter is found in the specification on page 31, lines 21-23 and page 33, lines 13-22. Additionally, claims 28 and 29 recite that the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy, which responds to ARP requests from the hosts by returning the MAC address of the access router instead of the MAC address of the destination host.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Edsall, the 7600 Command Reference, and Lou fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the combination does not disclose or suggest a method in which each host has a dedicated VLAN for both uplink traffic and unicast downlink traffic, and the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy as recited in new claims 28 and 29. Therefore, the allowance of new claims 28 and 29 is respectfully requested.

On Page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 8, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference as applied to claims 26 and 27 and further in view of Thompson, et al. (US 0002/0022483). Claim 7 has been canceled. The Applicant contends the remaining claims are allowable due to the amendments to base claims 26 and 27. The shortcomings of Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference are discussed above. Likewise, Applicant's reading of Thompson has not revealed any teaching or suggestion of a method or system in which each host has a dedicated VLAN for uplink traffic, a single asymmetric VLAN is used for all downlink traffic, and the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy as recited in amended claims 26 and 27. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and the allowance of claims 6, 8, 18, and 19 are respectfully requested.

On Page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 11, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference as applied to claims 26 and 27 and further in view of Sistanizadeh, et al. (US 6,101,182). The Applicant contends claims 10, 11, 21, and 22 are allowable due to the amendments to base claims 26 and 27. The shortcomings of Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference are discussed above. Likewise, Applicant's reading of Sistanizadeh has not revealed any teaching or suggestion of a method or system in which each host has a dedicated VLAN for uplink traffic, a single asymmetric VLAN is used for all downlink traffic, and the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy as recited in amended claims 26 and 27. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and the allowance of claims 10, 11, 21, and 22 are respectfully requested.

On Page 20 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference as applied to claims 26 and 27 and further in view of Yamaya, et al. (US 2002/0184387). The Applicant contends claims 12 and 23 are allowable due to the amendments to base claims 26 and 27. The shortcomings of Edsall and the 7600 Command Reference are discussed above. Likewise, Applicant's reading of Yamaya

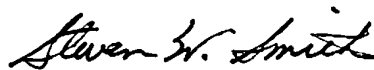
has not revealed any teaching or suggestion of a method or system in which each host has a dedicated VLAN for uplink traffic, a single asymmetric VLAN is used for all downlink traffic, and the access router is configured as a *modified* ARP proxy as recited in amended claims 26 and 27. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and the allowance of claims 12 and 23 are respectfully requested.

3.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 6, 8, 10-12, 18, 19, 21-23, and 26-29.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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